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[Despatch Abstract.]

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, the 19th October 1948.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Fort St. George, at eleven of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUKAM PILLA in the Chair.

I- Questions and Answers.

Starred Questions.

Numbering of houses of Harijans for the preparation of electoral rolls.

*399-Q- Sri V.I. MUNISWAMI PILLAY: Will the Hon. the Minist for Finance be pleased to state with reference to the preparation o new electoral rolls on the basis of adult suffrage as per articles and 149 of the draft constitution

(a) what kind of permanent scheme of numbering of houses th throughout the Province is contemplated; and

(b) in the case of poor people and Harijans, whose habitati are mere huts, how the Government propose to number them?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:-"A statement is laid one t table of the House."

SRI V.I. MUNISWAMI PILLAY:-"With reference to huts, may I kno whether the proposed scheme of numbering has been adopted in all the hamlets known as 'cheris'?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:-"In certain districts we have received reports, that even huts are also enumerated."

Sri V.I. MUNISWAMI PILLAY:-"In the City unauthorized huts having been demobilished, the numbering place having disappered, how were the occupants living on pials and pavements enumerated?"

The HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:-"People living on ~~pials~~ pials are not enumerated. People living in huts alone were enumer ted."

SRI V.I. MUNISWAMI PILLAY:-"Section 47 says that the adults over 21 years will be registered as voters and what is the necessity for insisting on residential qualification?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:-"It also contemplates residen- tial qualification. Unless a man has a residential qualifi ca tion, I do not think we can take him as a voter."

SRI V.M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:-"May I know, Sir, if the reside tial qualification of 180 days is in the City or in a particular plac and is it necessary that a person must be in possession of a house?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:-"Not the possession of a house. He must be living in some hut at least and not on the top of a tree."

SRI P. NATESAN:-"How it is possible for a man who lives on a pavement to have residential qualification of a house although he mig have lived in the City for 180 days."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:-"I think that such people are enumerated."

SRI R.V. SWAMINATHAN:-"Is it not a fact that most of the huts in the villages have been left out in the absence of clear instruc- tions and may I ask, Sir, what the Government propose to do to number these huts?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:- "All possible direction given to enumerate all the heads in the City as well a the mufassal and if any are left out it is open to the apply before the 23rd of this month."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:- "Do I understand the Hon Leader of the House to state that the Government are extending the time which has now been fixed as the 23rd?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:- "It is under contemplation. We shall see what happens on the 23rd and decide later."

SRI P. NATESAN:- "Arising out of the answer, am I to understand that people who have no residence but are adults over 21 years of age and who have been residing in the City of Madras as rickshaw-pullers and cart-pullers, have to go without being registered?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:- "They must be found in certain place or ward or certain street so that they may be identified. Otherwise, if they are nomadic people it is difficult to include them."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:- "Is it the intentionof the Government that about onelakh of homeless people in the City should go without vote because of their poverty and for no fault of their own?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI: - "Possibly they belong to the villages and they can go back to their villages."

Muhammad Raza Khan Sahib:- "Arising out of the answer of the Leader of the House that the matter of extending the time is under contemplation, is the Hon. Leader of the House aware of the complaints that have been received from the public and within the Press and a number of streets and parks of colonies have been left out completely and will the Government take this also under consideration?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:- "It is quite possible that there were cetain irregularities because it has to be taken into consideration that nearly three crores of people had to be brought under the electoral roll and there might have been also some omissions. On the whole it is quite satisfactory from the reports received from various districts that the thing has gone on very well."

M.S. ABDUL MAJID SAHIB BAHADUR:- "May I know whether beggers residing in Begger Homes in this Province have been enumerated?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:- "They are entitled to be enumerated."

P.P. HASSAN KOYA SAHIB BAHADUR:- "Is it a fact that in the enumeration in Malabar has not been satisfactory and that only 25 per cent have been enumerated and will the Government take steps to give more time to allow people to get into the list?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:- "I do not think it is true that only 25 per cent of the people in Malabar have been brought on the rolls. I shall take steps at any rate to see what should be done."

SRI V.M. RAMESWAMI MUDALIYAR:- "In view of the strength of opinion with regard to what amounts to residential qualification of 180 days, may I know whether the Government will take legal opinion as to whether the houseless people even thought they have other qualifications could be enfranchised?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:-"These people must be identifiable, Sir, and they must be put into some street or block Merely to put them on the electoral roll without being able to fix the person is not proper."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:- "With regard to the residential qualification, Sir, is it with reference to a particular street or a particular house or does it mean that it will do if a man has proved categorically that he lived in the country or in the Province 180 days and whether legal opinion will be taken on the poi

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:- "He must give some residence; whether it is his relations or rented house. I do not know if living on pials can be called residence. He must give the residence and stat where he is residing."

SRI GUNTUR NARASIMHA RAO:- "In the case of rick-shaw- pullers and other labourers having residence in one place, the enumerators refused to entol them, will the Government see that they are enrolled because 45 of them reside in oneplace and also jointly cook? In the case of Madras City such of those persons living there have been refus ed to be enumerated. So, will the Government issue instructions to th Special Deputy Collector to see that these people are enumerated?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:-"I do not know why they were refused when they were living in a hostel like that. I do know whether they were really re-fused. Certainly I will loo into the fact."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:- "In view of the fact that most of the shop assistants could not be enumerated as they were not allowed any holidays, will the Government direct the Eneumerating department to work on Sundays so that those shop assistants can enrol themselves as vote

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI: - "That matter is under conside tion."

SRI K.T. KOSALRAM:- "May I know from the Leader of the House whether the Government are aware that 60 per cent of the voters have been left out in villages in the Tinnevelly district, and if so, what steps will the Government take to see that they are enrolled?"

The Hon. Sri B. Gopala Reddi:- "Fifty per cent of the populat T is fairly a good proportion because the Indian morality is very low. Doctors are of the opinion that 50 per cent i quite reasonable." (Laughter.)

Sri V.L. Muniswami Pillay:- "Arising out of the answer that reports have been received from the districts, may I know whether the Governlent are satisfied with the percentage of people enrolled?"

Sri R.V. SWAMINATHAN:- "With reference to the supplementary question, I want to put a very important question."

MR. SPEAKER:-"Does it mean that the other questions are unimportant."

SRI R.V. SWAMINATHAN:-"This is a very important one."

MR. SPEAKER:- "The Hon. Member may put the question."

SRI R.V. SWAMINATHAN:- "In view of the fact that people in Ra nad numbering about two lakhs have left for Tanjore on account of the prevailing famine conditions in the district and they are unable to p signatures in the list, may I know how these two lakhs can be enrolle in this district as they have left the district?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:-"Just now, I am unable to answe that question. It seems to me a very difficult proposition. If they have left en masse Ramnad to Tanjore it is very diff cult to enumerate them."

DR. S. SUBRAHMANYA AYYAR:- "Do the Government know that more women have goen into rolls men than men?"

MR. SPEAKER:- "The Hon. Member has given information."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:- "Not only that. In Madras women are more than men."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:- "In view of the fact that the rules do not insist on property qualifiaations but only insist on residential qualification, will the Government see that all those people who have resided in this Province are enumerated and included i the electoral rolls and will the Government also advise their officers to see that all people above 21 years who have lived in the province

province not less than 180 days are put on the electoral rolls?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:- "It is not a question of property qualifications at all. Even people living in small huts are eligible to be enumerated. If they are merely residents of Madras Presidency I do not know in which constituency and in which ward and in which street they must be included. Unless we know where they have stayed for 180 days they cannot be enumerated."

SRI P. NATESAN:- "May I know whether the Government have any statistics of the number of people who are houseless and yet pay some sort of tax?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:- "Sales tax, you mean."

SRI P. NATESAN:- "A rickshaw man pays, the Corporation tax and stays for 180 days. Is it fair that his name is not included?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALAD REDDI:- "He must be residing somewhere If that is shown, his name will be included."

SRI P. NATESAN:- "When the Government is in a position to Collect tax from him, it does not mean that it is not in a position to know the residence."

M. Muhammad Ismail Sahib Bahadur:- "Is it fair, Sir, that when even beggers are enumerated and included in the electoral rolls, peopl who are living on pavements and are earning their livelihood within the City are left out of the electoral rolls?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:- "It is not a question of the begger being enumerated or the prince being enumerated but anybody who is living in a particular locality will be enumerated."

P.K. MOIDEEN KUTTY SAHIB BAHADUR:- "Are the Government aware that a number of Gosha women in places like Malabar have been left out of enumeration because there was no special arrangement to enumerate them, and if so, whether the Government will be pleased to make special arrangements by employing women enumerators to enlist them now

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:- "In most of the places and especially in municipalities we did employ women enumerators for the purpose and even in the city also, similar arrangements were made to enumerate women voters, but I do not know whether the Gosha women in Malabar were particularly left out and I have no data at present with me to find it out, Sir."

M. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:- "May I know, Sir, under what disability the Mayor of the City of Madras was not enumerated?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:- "Perhaps he was not found in his residence that day, when the enumerators came, sir,."

K.M. SETHI SAHIB BAHADUR:- "May I know whether the Governmen insist on personal presentation of the enumeration forms by persons wh have been omitted in the first enumeration, before the village officer or Commissioners, and if so, whether they would not realize the great inconvenience and hardship caused to Gosha ladies in the matter of going to such village officers or Commissioners to present their applications in person, and whether they are devising any means by which such hardships and inconveniences might be avoided?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPAA REDDI:- "The only alternative in that case willbe that they can be presented by some relations of theirs, in which case there will be a lot of bogus applications also, coming in, and it will be very difficult to include them in the electoral rolls. So we have to make sure that all applications are genuine and we shall consider what can be done in the matter, Sir."

S. Ahdul Majid Sahib Bahadur:- "May I know whether the Ministers of the Government have been enumerated?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:- "I do not know whether all of them have been enumerated or not, but I have not been enumerated Sir."

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB:- "Does the Hon. Leader of the House know that reports have appeared in the Press that people did wait in their houses on the 8th and 9th for enumeration, but that the enumerators did not turn up to their houses for purposes of enumeration?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:- "It is quite possible that some houses might have been, left out, Sir."

SRI D.V. RAMASWAMI:- "In view of the fact that more than 50 per cent of the adult population in the Vizagapatam municipality have not been enumertated, including myself and the Chairman of that municipality, may I request the Government to consider the desirability of allotting two nights as during census and arranging for a fresh enumeration so that all persons who have not been included might make themselves available for being enumerated and that there may be no more complaints in the matter?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:- "Sir, the Government are giving some further facilities for people to get themselves enumerated and people who have been left out can take an advantage of these facilities."

Sri K. VENKATA RAJU:- "In view of the general complaint that has been made about enumeration, will the Government consider the desirability of declaring two more holidays and do the whole thing again?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:- "No Sir, further declaration holidays is not desirable."

SRI G. RAJAMANNAR CHETTY:- "Is the Hon. Minister aware of the fact that some of the Hon. Ministers, some of the Members of this Assembly residing in the City of Madras and some of the Councillors of the Corporation including the Mayors and many important citizens are left out and if so, what the Government propose to do to make the system and machinery of enumeration more efficient?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:- "It may be, Sir, that some of them might have been left out of enumeration, but their standing position does not make any difference, because unless they are in their houses when the enumerators came, they would not have been enumerated. Their position has nothing to do with enumerations, but they can now avail of the new facilities afforded to get themselves enumerated."

MR. L.C. PAIS:- "May I know whether the Hon. Minister is aware that a large number of voters in factories and other eligible voters in South Kanara have not been enumerated at all?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:- "I do not grant, Sir, that a large number of workers have been left out. There may be some individual cases which might have been left out, but the opportunity that is now being given may be availed of by them and they may get themselves enumerated."

I. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:- "Will the Government issue instructions that the Legislators are IPSO FACTO enumerated?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:- "No, Sir, they cannot have any special privilege."

K.M. SEETHI SAHIB BAHADUR:- "May I know whether it has come to the notice of the Government that all the leading newspapers in Malabar irrespective of parties, have complained about the inadequate and unsatisfactory method of enumeration of qualified voters in the district and that a large percentage of the otherwise qualified voters have been left out of enumeration?"

The Hon. Sri B. GOPALA REDDI:- "I have not seen the Malayalam papers, Sir, but considering the magnitude of the task, it is possible that there might have been some mistakes and we are knew now trying to see whether they cannot be rectified by affording some further facilities in the matter of enrolment."

BR. S. SUBRAHMANYA AYYAR:- "How do the Government propose to enumerate the army and the police staff who have been drafted into Hyderabad?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:- "They can send their applications to their respective village officers, Sir."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:- "In view of the very many questions that have been put in the Assembly just now indicating the unsatisfactory nature of the procedure adopted in the matter of enumeration, will the Government now say definitely that they will extend the time for applying for enrolment in the electoral roll and that all facilities will be given for that purpose, without saying that they will simply consider the question?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:- "Sir, the number of supplementary questions put on the floor of the House does not mean that the whole thing has gone wrong. Becuase time was allowed, you are putting more supplementayy questions .We shall certainly see whether time can be extended, Sir."

SRI R.V. SWAMINATHAN:- "Sir, in view of the unsatisfactory answers given by the Hon. Minister to the garidus supplementary questions put to him and also in view of the fact thata large number of people have been left out a of enumeration in the four southern districts of this Province, namely, Ramnad, Tirunelveli, Madura and Tiruchirappalli, may I requesty you, Sir, to allow a half-an-hour debate on this question this evening, as we were not able to get all our points cleared by the Government?"

MR. SPEAKER:- "Many members want to put supplementary questions. So I am going to allow a half-hour debate to-day."

V- HALF HOUR DEBATE ON THE PREPARATIONS OF DRAFT PRELIMINARY ELECTORAL ROLLS.

SRI M. KANNIYAPPAN:- " 'In Tamil"

MR. SPEAKER:- " In Tamil

SRI R.V. SWAMINATHAN:- "Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have to thank you very much for allowing us this half-hourd debate over this very important matter. In the preparationof these electoral rolls, the procedure adopted by the Government contained a number of irregularities and defects. Sir, so far as the numbering of houses is concerned, I have to state that in our village parts, a major portion of the huts have been left out without being given numbers. We asked the village officers why they have left out these huts and they said that they had not received definite and dlear instructions in the matter. Even when we pointed out certain cases where they have omitted some important portions of the villages they replied that they have no instructions to do otherwise, Sir, even in the printed reply to the question raised on the subject, which has been placed on the table of the House by the Hon. Leader of the House, it is stated that the Government have given necessary instructions for the numbering of the houses throughout the Province including huts and that these numbers should be written on the walls or on the door or in some prominent front portion of the huts. But these instructions have not been carried out in most of the villagess at all. I ask , Sir, what is the use of merely giving some replies and answers in this House when such instructions have not been properly carried out in the village parts.

"Sir, moreover it was insisted that every person should sign or affix his thumb-impression in the prescribed form. I do not know whether this has been the practice in this Province alone or whether other provinces are also adopting this procedure in the preparation of electoral rolls. My information is that other provinces do not insist on the signature of the voters and I do not know whether I am correctly informed or not. Only in this Province I hear that voters are asked to affix their signatures or thumb-impressions inthe prescribed form and I am afraid that many of the illiterate people in the villages would not come forward to affix their thumb-impressions due to the fear that they might be used for some other purposes to their detriment.

"Sir, the other point about which we are worried is this, I you take the southern districts of Ramnad, Tinnevelly, Madura and Trichinopoly, about 2 lakhs of people had left out of one district alone namely, Ramnad, and had gone temporarily to earn their livelihood in the Tanjore district owing to the acute famine conditions prevailing in the district. I am told in the Tinnevelly district also about 2 lakhs of people have gone out to other districts. A friend of mine from Trichinopoly told me that about 30,000 people had gone out of that district to Tanjore to eke out their living. And in Madura also a good number of people had gone out. What about these people? Surely their names would not have been enrolled in the districts to which they had gone, and moreover what is the use of putting their names in the voters' list in those districts? They have gone ~~their~~ only for a temporary stay and they are not going to live all their lives permanently in those districts. If conditions improve intheir own districts, they would certainly come back, because many of them have got their own lands, houses and their relatives in these districts. Thus, Sir, several lakhs of people have been deprived of their franchise. Many of them are not included either in their own districts or in the districts to which they had migrated. If at least property qualification is insisted, some of the names of these people could have found a place in the voters' list of the respective villages, But that was not done and there were no instructions to enroll them as such. I ask, what is the use of giving adult franchise when you have deprived several lakhs of people of their franchise, by this defective method of enumeration? Is it for this purpose that we wanted Swaraj? The Hon. Leader of the House has himself stated this morning in answer to a supplementary question that even his name has been left out. Even some of the Ministers' names have been left out The Hon. Leader of the House should not take it as a matter of pride in giving this kind of answer. ~~(On the other hand it is a matter of pride in giving this kind of answer. On theother hand it is a~~ma On the other hand it is a matter of shame that such irregularities should have been allowed to creep in. The Govornorment should have adopted a procedure which should have no defects and loopholes and they should have made perfect arrangements with regard to enlisting all eligible people to be enrolled. The electoral list should be as complete and as perfect as possible. I have great regard and respect for th Hon. Leader of the House, but I am only sorry why he should take pride in saying that his name has not found a place in the voters' list.

"Sir, one other point is this. During the first week of this month, I had an opportunity of touring in my district along with the Hon. Minister for Agriculture, Mr. Madhava Menon in connection with the inauguration of the prohibition campaign. We covered about 108 villages in six days. Everywhere there were cries from people on two matters. One was the want of food-grains. Perhaps I might have an opportunity to speak about this some time later. The other cry is that the voters' lists have not been prepared properly and that many people who had gone out of the district have not been included in the lists. These were the two chief complaints in the village parts wherever we went to address meetings and we found that in many villages the majority of the people present in those meetings were only women. The hon. Lady Members Mrs Kuttimalu Amma who was also along with us was suprised and asked why ladies alone were present and some one replied that the ladies were more interested in prohibition than men. But that was not the fact, Sir, it is because many of their male members had gone out of the district, that was why they were not there. Sir, I have got some more points to say, and if you would allow me a little more time, I would deal with them as briefly as I can."

MR. SPEAKER:- "The hon. Member has already taken more time. I call upon Mr. V.I. Muniswami Pillay to speak."

SRI V.I. MUNISWAMI PILLAY:- "Mr. Speaker, Sir, I must thank you for giving as an opportunity to express ourselves on a very important matter like this. Sir, after great agitation in this country, it has been possible for us to get adult suffrage and unless the electoral rolls are prepared in a proper and satisfactory manner, the advantages that the poor communities like the Harijans are expecting cannot be go Sir, this morning the answers elicited from the Hon. Leader of the Hou were not satisfactory to me and so also to most of the members of my community. In the first place the days that were fixed for enumeratio were workingdays and all the labourers both in the urban and rural areas had to go out and attend to their avocations, and thereby they were not able to get themselves enumerated. This is so not only in my own district of the Nilgiris, but even in the other districts where I have been touring during the last four days I heard similar complain

"Sir, this morning the Hon. Minister was telling us that unless there is a residential qualification, the voters cannot be counted. Take for instance the City of Madras itself. There are a lot of worke both in the Kothwal Bazaar and the Flower Bazaar and in many other places also there are a sort of floating population with no permanent residence anywhere and according to the Hon. Minister, those people cannot be counted. They are permanent population although they may not have permanenta residences and so they ought to be counted as permanent people in the City. Harijans are the toilers of the soil, the hewers of wood and labourers who work all day long and they must be given a chance to get into the electoral rolls. It is with that object that I feel, Sir, that the Government must come forward to exten the time so that all those people who have been left out must be able to get themselves enrolled.

"Sir, I know that in some of the districts the Congress Committees have already sent resolutions to the present organization and to the Government stating that the time allotted was too short and that the enumeration that was conducted was not at all satisfactory. In own town of Cotacanund, the local congress Committee printed about 5,000 application forms and distributed them to those people whose names had not been taken in the voters' list. I hope that the Govern ment will take all these into account and see that justice is done to those people, so that all the labourers who have been clamouring for ages to get into the voters' list and thereby get some political power in the administration of the land, should not be lost sight of. I do not question the BONA FIDES of the Government or accuse them t that they are not sympathetic towards the cause of the Harijans and o the poorer classes of the people, but I do feel that in this matter proper justice has not been done and even the Hon. Minister was telli us that he has been able to get only 50 per cent of the people in the voters' list. I do not know if all the Collectors have sent in their reports about the percentage of the population who had been enrolled, but whatever that may be, I plead that the Government must come to our rescue and see that at least 75 per cent of the people in this Province get into the voters' list."

M.S. ABDUL MAJID SAHIB BAHADUR:- "Mr. Speaker, Sir, from several of the letters published in the daily papers and from the editorial written by some of them, it is seen that the enumeration was not done properly. But one realizes the huge undertaking of enumerating the whole of the adult population of this Province and under the scheme scheme of adult franchise it is nothing strange or unusual that the work could not be done properly and in a satisfactory manner. Sir, in the first place, we must be in a position to know the percentage of th adult population in this Province and the Government should see whethe the percentage of the people enumerated tallies with the percentage of the adult population in this Province. If it does not tally, then the Government must arrange to enumerate such of those places where they have not done it properly. The Election Commissioner has accepted tha several of the streets, and houses and huts have been omitted. I am given to understand that the illiterate people, out of certain fear, refused to give their names to the enumerators who have visited their houses.

"Secondly Sir, the days chosen for enumeration were not all right. I wish that the Government had chosen two Sundays, when not

when not only the people would be free, but also people working in bi firms, in shops and in business houses nd small workshops might have got a holiday and would have remained in their houses, so that they e could have been easily enumerated. But actually what had happened was that when the enumeration took place not only in the city, but also in the mufassal, nearly 10 to 15 per cent of the population were actually working in their offices or shops. Therefore the enumerator were not able to catch such of those voters and hence the defective enumeration.

"Again Sir, if the Government now propose to enumerate such of those people who had been left out unenumerated, I would wish them to make such arrangements as to see that the people whoare to be enrolled are not made to go and present their forms in distant places or offices, but to the nearest polling stations particularly in the City of Madras and if it is a mufassal place, they might be asked to present the forms to the village Karnams or the village headman, so that their task might be rendered easy. Otherwise, people would bee come indifferent if they are asked to walk to distant places, and the electoral rolls would still be defective.

"Then Sir, the system of obtaining signatures from voters in the prescribed forms might seem to be defective to some Members, but I feel that it is very necessary and it is the only correct proce dure, as otherwise, as we have seen in the Corporation elections whic have taken place recently in the City of Madras, many people who have been dead would be resurrected and many who were living would be impersonated. Therefore there should be some such safeguard or a system by which the real voter could be indentified. The only method that I can think of is the getting of the Voter's signature if he is a literate person, or his thumb-impression if he is not literate, and thereby we can avoid any possibility of ~~impersonation~~ impersonation. Therefore my hon. Friend Mr. A.V. Subramaniam or any other member should not object to such a system of enumeration as otherwise it would lead to more difficulties and troubles in the future.

"Again, Sir, in view of impending further enumeration, I woul suggest that the Government enlist the help of private agencies, such as the Tamil Nad Congress Committees ~~which~~ which has already come forward to help them in this matter. Similarly there are many other organizations who might be prepared to help the Government in this regard, and opportunity should be given to them to present the application forms in the manner prescribed. At the same time, the Government must also take care to ~~see~~ see that no manipulation is made by interested parties and they must remove such of those manipulators from the list of helpers. These are some of the suggestions that I wish to make and I hope the Government will take due note of them in proceeding with their re-enumeration, which they have proposed."

Sri K.T. KOSALRAM:- Mr. Speaker, Sir,

In Tamil

MR. SPEAKER:- In Tamil

SRI K.T. KOSALRAM:- -Do-

Mr. SPEAKER:- "

Sri K.T. Kosalram:- "

In Tamil

In Tamil.

Sri K.R. Karanth:- "Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not in any sense of carping ~~of~~ criticism that I want to speak on this subject. But do feel that the work that the Government have undertaken at so much cost is going to waste. It is my feeling , and I speak with respec to my district, South Kanara. Even in Mangalore town on the second day the enumerators came to me--they are municipal servants-- and sa that in most of the houses they were not able to find most of the pec When that is the case in a town like Mangalore where houses are very near, the situation will be much worse in the rural areas. After al it is no good spending thousands of rupees on printing these rolls i they are to be useless for the purpose later on. I have heard from more than one Tahsildar-here again it is not to find fault with the Government that I say this--that week by week the orders issued by Government on this business are changed and they therefore hardly kn what to do. At one time they issue one order about the numbering of the houses. Within a few days another order comes revising the old order.

"On the 11th of this month I read in the 'Indian Express' a Government communique which said that by October 13th (that is withi two days) people must apply for enumeration in the prescribed forms. Then two days back I read that it is not october 13th, but October 23rd. This is really very unsatisfactory. I do not know how the Hon. the Leader of the House got the information that 50 per cent of the people are on the rolls. That is quite wrong. If it is 50 per cent of the voters, it is certainly not satisfactory. But if it is 50 per cent of the people which averages the adult population, I am a afraid, Sir, that it is a very serious mistake. I would submit that if only those two days had been left to the enumerators to prepare a list of all the adult persons of their own accord that is without an application from the parties, I am sure they would have done the wo very satisfactorily. I agree with my hon. friend Mr. Swaminathan tha it is not easy for our people who are illiterate to give thumb-impre sions in printed forms. If it had been left to Government servants District Board servants to enumerate, I do not think w there would have been any manipulation and nobody would have felt sorry for it. A week or ten days' time might have been given for interested organizations to file objections, if any, and then the objected name could have been deleted.

"In the villages--if anybody goes to my district, he will kn that-the illiterate people are very reluctant to give thumb-impress- ions fearing they might be promissory notes or lease deeds, which la lords take from the villagers. If the object of the Government is t

to bring the largest number of people on to the rolls, irrespective of party or creed, I submit Sir, that the whole procedure adopted requires thorough overhauling. There should be no haste. Government are spending lakhs of rupees on this. It is not use of adjourning from five days to a week or ten days. Let them seriously consider whether it is not worthwhile, even at this stage, to have a re-enumeration but without these application forms. Let organizations-whether it be the Congress or any other-go round and get on with enumeration work on private forms. ~~It has appeared in the papers, that certain particulars forms~~. It has appeared in the papers, that certain particulars should be given. This appeared in a Madras daily paper three days back. There are no papers in the villages. How are the villagers to give all the requisite information? There are no forms in the district Therefore, give a month's time. For goodness's sake, let Government not spoil this work by undue haste. It is not going to be ready by the end of March. It will take more than three or four months in Government or private presses. So, nothing will be lost by giving a months time. ~~(For goodness's sake,)~~ Let Government give time till the end of November and ask private organizations to carry on the work. Let them go round and take signatures, and then give ten days' time for filing objections, if any. Otherwise, this work is not going to be satisfactory.

"Article 149 of the Draft constitution is yet to be passed by the Constituent Assembly. After all it is for the purpose of an election to be held under the New Constitution, I take it. If that is so unless the Constitution is passed by the Constituent Assembly we do not know how finally it will be passed. Article 149 says that every adult is entitled to vote unless by reason of non-residence he is disqualified by an Act of the Provincial Legislature. We do not know in what form this Article 149 is going to be passed by the Constituent Assembly. Now, this Government insists on 180 days' residential qualification. Under what authority is this enforced? There is no such law on the subject. Therefore, to anticipate something which is not there is not correct. A man may be living anywhere in the Province. Under Article 149 as it stands to-day, he is entitled to be on the rolls. Therefore, Sir, I submit that it is better that there is a delay of one month or two months. Let there be no haste and let not the whole matter be spoiled."

SRI A. SUBRAHMANYAM:- "

In Tamil,

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:- "Mr. Speaker Sir, many mistakes have been committeed in the enumeration, and that has been made clear by many speakers before me. Armies of people have been left out, and streets, if not villages, have been left out , ~~and streets, if not villages, have been left out~~ of enumeration in the southern districts particularly. We have been given concrete, definite, and sure information in the matter. Therefore, I say that Government will do well in the name of Democracy to extend the time by at least two months and make it very widely known to the people that the time has been extended and that people have to register their names in such and such a manner. If Government simply extend the time without making it widely known to the public, it would not do. People in the villages must know that time has been extended, and that they must get themselves registered in such and such a way. Forms should be supplied quickly, and people should not be made to wait for hours before they get forms.

"When the time is extended, I take it that these voters have to go to the Registering Officers. No more visits to the houses of people will be made hereafter. Therefore, what I say is that every voter should not be insisted to take his or her paper to the every Registering Officer. The Government must make arrangements for people who cannot go out and who cannot appear before registering officers. If the Government would not do so, the voters will have to lose their fundamental and vital rights of franchise. Therefore, the Government must make it possible for these people to send their papers through their relatives such as fathers, brothers, husbands and such other relatives. If need be, Government may require these relatives to countersign the papers which are being presented on behalf of their other relatives.

"One other point was raised on the floor of this House this morning regarding people who are houseless and homeless and who liv in city. In my own constituency in the City there are thousands of people. It is not their fault that they do not have houses. They are already suffering for want of shelter. You should not make the suffer moreby depriving them of their frachise. You must devise so means of bringing them to the electoral roll. That will mean only doing bare justice to these people to which they are entitled.

"There is another category of people who are in distant pla on account of their avocations or due to ~~their~~ other reasons."

Mr. Speaker:- "The hon. Member's time is up."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:- "One more word, Sir. Government should not make it incumbent upon those people to goe with their papers to the Registering Officers."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:- "Sir, I am thankful to hon. ~~Hine~~ Members for the various suggestions they have made. All thes will certainly be borne in mind and necessary precautions will be taken to see that more people are brought on to the rolls. We are anxious that the largest number of people should be enfranchized so that we may work Democracy on a sound basis. But in view of the magnitude of the work and the inexperience of the enumerators, some mistakes might have been committeed. We will try to improve them as time goes on."

MR. SPEAKER:- "I now adjourn the House till to-morrow 11a.m.

The House then adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. on the 20th October 1948.

1. Notification issued with G.O.Ms.No. 3326, Home, dated 4th September 1948, making amendments to the Madras Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940, published with Home Department Notification No. 357, dated the 29th March 1940, as subsequently amended.

2. Notification I appended to G.O. No. 1661, L.A., dated the 4th September 1948, regarding the constitution of Rasipuram (Salem) Municipality.

3. Notification IV appended to G.O.No. 1662, L.A., dated the 4th September 1948, regarding the consfitution of the Mettupa

upalayam (Coimbatore) Municipality.

Appendix I.

(Vide answer to starred question No. 399 asked by Sri V.I Muniswamy Pillay at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on the 19th October 1948, page 309 supra).

)(Elections - New Constitution-Adult franchize - Preparation of Draft Preliminary Electoral Rolls-Numbering of houses)

The Government have issued instructions for the numbering of houses throughout the province. These numbers will be permanent and maintained. Every dwelling with a separate main entrance is treated as a distinct house and numbered even if the dwelling harbours more than one family. The following is the scheme adopted on the line prescribed by the Government of India in connexion with the Census of 1951:-

1. Village and Minor Panchayats. - The area will be split up into compact blocks with 100 houses in each block (or slightly more or less), and the houses numbered in one series in each block. A block will consist of a group of adjoining streets or other compact local area with well-defined boundaries. The numbering will be done clock wise if the houses are scattered, or by streets, proceeding from nor to south (or each to west), the st numbering in each street being do from east to west (or south to north), odd numbers bein given to t houses on the right and even numbers to those on the left. In stree where houses are confined to one side of the street, the houses will however, be numbered consecutively. The Thus, the house number 5-1 marked on a house will denote house No. 15 in Block No; 5. In a sma village, the numbering could be done in one series throughout the village. But numbering by blocks, will be necessary for the larger villages and villages with hamlets. The work will be done by the village officers and checked by the special staff appointed for the purpose under the Tahsildars.

A rough plan of the village will be prepared in duplicate showing the location of the blocks, the streets and the house numbers in each street and block. The karnam will prepare this plan. One copy of the plan will be retained by the karnam and the other sent t the Taluk office. A key to the plan in the following form will be recorded on the plan itself:-

Number of the block in serial order.	Name of the street or streets comprising the block in column(1).	House numbers in the block (by streets).	Total number of houses in the block (by street
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1	A.B.	1 to 25	25
	C.D.	26 to 75	50

The Taluk office copy of the plan will be made available to Polling Officers for reference at the time of elections to facilitat identification of voters.

11. Major panchayats, municipalities and corporation of Madras:- In areas in which the houses are all situated in well form streets, the existing arrangement under which the houses in each street have been numbered in a separate series, irrespective of the size of the street, will be left undisturbed. In other areas, the house will be numbered in a separate series in each block and not by streets. Old houses that have been omitted to be numbered or new houses which have since sprung up, will be given- sub-numbers, or fresh numbers in continuation, according to the existing plan of num bering and with reference to the location of the houses in the stree or block in which they are situated.

The existing wards and divisions will probably have to be

be changed with reference to the large size of the new electorate for elections to local bodies under adult suffrage. It is therefore considered that the new electoral rolls should not be prepared with reference to the existing wards and divisions. As the names in the new rolls, will be written separately for each street or block, the new rolls can be conveniently adapted for the purpose of elections to the local body with reference to the wards and divisions that may be fixed after the introduction of adult suffrage.

For purposes of easy identification of the voters, it is considered desirable that the well- established existing localities like Mylapore, Triplicane, Royapetta, etc., in Madras City, Brodipet and Arundelpet in Guntur town and Vannarpet in Palamcottah Municipali should be duly taken into account and preserved in the new scheme of numbering. Under the new scheme, these well-known localities will accordingly be first numbered in one series for the whole town. Thus Adyar will be numbered as No.1. Mylapore, No. 2, Royapetta No. 3 and so on. The streets which are now known only by their names will then be numbered in one series, separately for each locality. Any new streets in the locality will be duly numbered according to their location therein. The existing numbers marked on the houses will remain unchanged. Thus under this scheme, house No. 5-10-25 will mean house No. 25, in Street No. 10 in Locality No. 5 and this is sufficient to locate the house exactly. The number (5-10 in the illustration) which helps to locate the street will be painted on the name plate or board at the street-ends; this would obviate the need for marking the additional number (5-10) in the illustration) on every house in that street

In respect of each major Panchayat or municipality, including the Corporation of Madras, a list in the following form will be maintained:-

Number and names of the locality(in serial order)	Number and name of the street (in serial order of street numbers.)	House numbers in the street in column(2)	Total No. of nos. in the street Column
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1 Adyar	1 A.B.	1 to 25,25A to 30	31
	2 C.D.	1 to 50	50

The list will be kept in duplicate one copy being kept in the office of the local body and the other being sent to the Taluk office. The Taluk office copy of thelist will be made available to Polling Officers for reference at the time of elections

At the end of each financial year, the karnam will record on the house-list, a certificate as to the number of houses in the village at the beginning of the financial year, the number of houses added during the year and the total number of houses at the end of the financial yearand also certify that the house numbers in the village have been maintained. The intention that these house numbers should be permanent and that they should be used as far as possible both by the people and by the Governmen for all purposes including electoral rolls and census.

The above numbering scheme will apply even to huts. If the hut has walls, the house number will be marked in tar on a white-washed background on the wall next to themain entrance. If there are no walls, the number will be marked on a small metal plate or a wooden board and hung up in thehut.

The Government have directed that the expenditure in connection with the house numbering should be met by the local body concerned in Madras City, mufassal muhicipalities and panchayats, and by the Government in the remaining areas in the Province